

Warner, we are back to your amendment as amended.

SENATOR WARNER: Mr. President, I move its adoption.

SPEAKER BARRETT: Thank you. Discussion? Senator Bernard-Stevens, your light is still on, would you care to discuss it? Senator Nelson, discussion?

SENATOR NELSON: Mr. Speaker, members of the body, after the adoption of the last amendment it is better than certainly the previous one, but I tried to point out to the body the other day, and I hurriedly was getting these figures together, I still think, and I think that though the administration and so on have said, well, those above 1 percent are the ones that are going to be reimbursed, I guess I'd like to make my point for something for some of you to realize how this is affected, or what...how untrue some of the figures can be or the picture. I am familiar with the schools in Hall County, for example, not that the City of Grand Island or so on cannot...may or may not be able to afford to lose it. But let me give you this picture. You're talking about the ones that are losing above 1 percent. The railroad valuation, I tried to make this point the other day, on Grand Island is .44, so...of 1 percent, so, naturally, they will not get any. Their tax dollar loss is \$71,652, not that much really out of a \$24 million budget. All right, their cash reserve, which we are talking about, at the time...the end of the year, they borrowed \$1,056,000. In other words, they had no cash reserve. They are paying interest on the money. All right, let's go to another district in Grand Island, 501, or which is known as 1R. They are losing 3.85 percent of their valuation, so by the formulas we're talking about they will be reimbursed 2.85. Their total tax loss is \$11,122. But now their budget is \$728,766, their cash reserve is \$199,222. So you tell me who can afford, who cannot afford, how are you going to arrive at these figures? I'm not going to stand up here and bore you with a lot of other figures. I'll just randomly pick another one, \$456,000 budget with a cash reserve of 100 percent. They will only be reimbursed 20 cents or 20 mills, not much. But it is so inconsistent. What we are talking about, there just is really no basic, realistic...I still think and I may offer it, as Senator Dierks said the other day, we should either go 25 percent, 40 percent, 60 percent, whatever value that we figure that we can afford to do it and go right straight through. I know there are a few counties that are up against the mill levy. But that is the only way that we're going to do